

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA- 557**

**Gorsuch Mill House**

**16710 Gorsuch Mill Road**

**Upperco, Baltimore County**

**1872 ca.**

**Private**

The Gorsuch Mill House was constructed circa 1872 near the community of Black Rock in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The dwelling is representative of the many vernacular stone houses erected throughout Baltimore County in the mid-19th century. During the middle of the 19th century, the surrounding community was largely rural, with a few farms sited along Gorsuch Mill Road. A post office and store were located at the center of Black Rock, which formed at the terminus of Gorsuch Mill Road with Falls Road. Several mills dotted the landscape along Black Rock Run. In 1877, the Gorsuch Mill House was occupied by J. S. Gorsuch and was adjacent to the Bayview Grist and Sawmill. Regardless of its strategic location at an intersection in a milling district, the Black Rock community remained rural through the late 1800s. By 1881, the village had a population of 150 and included two Baptist churches, a United Brethren church, and one public school.

The Gorsuch Mill House fronts south at a sharp bend of Gorsuch Mill Road with random rubble stone retaining wall to the east and a stream to the west. The coursed rubble stone building sits on a random rubble stone foundation and is three bays wide. The original portion of the vernacular house has a molded wood cornice under a side gable, metal standing seam roof. The façade has a one-story, two-bay wide porch with concrete block pier supports. Another one-story, two-bay-wide porch with Tuscan columns stands on the southeast elevation. At the basement level, there is a single-leaf, beaded vertical board door and a 6/6 window. The first story has three 6/6 windows and the second story has two 6/3 windows. All windows have square-edged wood surrounds, sills, and lintels. There are two exterior end, random rubble stone chimneys, and one interior end, random rubble stone chimney. On the rear of the house, there is a wood frame, two-story ell that is clad in wood weatherboard with a random rubble stone foundation. To the west of the main building is a two-story stone and wood frame addition built in the 1930s. The main entrance is now located in the addition and consists of a single-leaf, paneled door flanked by three-light-and-panel sidelights with an adjacent nine-light fixed window. Both are located beneath a twelve-light transom with a slightly projecting, scroll-sawn hood. To the southeast of the building is a 1930s garage, acistern, and the ruin of a bank barn.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1 557

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Gorsuch Mill House (preferred)

other

### 2. Location

street and number 16710 Gorsuch Mill Road

not for publication

city, town Upperco

vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lawrence E. and Susan E. Collins

street and number 16710 Gorsuch Mill Road

telephone Not Available

city, town Upperco

state MD

zip code 21155-9440

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 12174 folio 245

city, town Towson

tax map 20

tax parcel 57

tax ID number 2300006002

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 557

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built circa 1872, the Gorsuch Mill House fronts south at a sharp bend of Gorsuch Mill Road with random rubble stone retaining wall to the east and a stream to the west. The coursed rubble stone building sits on a random rubble stone foundation and is three bays wide. The original portion of the vernacular house has a molded wood cornice under a side gable, metal standing seam roof. The façade has a one-story, two-bay wide porch with concrete block pier supports. Another one-story, two-bay-wide porch with Tuscan columns stands on the southeast elevation. At the basement level, there is a single-leaf, beaded vertical board door and a 6/6 window. The first story has three 6/6 windows and the second story has two 6/3 windows. All windows have square-edged wood surrounds, sills, and lintels. There are two exterior end, random rubble stone chimneys, and one interior end, random rubble stone chimney. On the rear of the house, there is a wood frame, two-story ell that is clad in wood weatherboard with a random rubble stone foundation. To the west of the main building is a two-story stone and wood frame addition built in the 1930s. The main entrance is now located in the addition and consists of a single-leaf, paneled door flanked by three-light-and-panel sidelights with an adjacent nine-light fixed window. Both are located beneath a twelve-light transom with a slightly projecting, scroll-sawn hood.

To the southeast of the building is a 1930s garage, acistern, and the ruin of a bank barn. Built into the hill, the garage has random ashlar stone construction, a flat roof, and a metal, roll-up door that is paneled with lights. The barn ruin, which is contemporary to the original house, consists of the random rubble stone foundation walls that are banked into the hill. Also, there is a random rubble stone well or cistern built into the retaining wall to the northeast of the house. The cistern dates to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1 557

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1872 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1872 ca., 1930 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Gorsuch Mill House was constructed circa 1872 near the community of Black Rock in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The dwelling is representative of the many vernacular stone houses erected throughout Baltimore County in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. During the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the surrounding community was largely rural, with a few farms sited along Gorsuch Mill Road. A post office and store were located at the center of Black Rock, which formed at the terminus of Gorsuch Mill Road with Falls Road. Several mills dotted the landscape along Black Rock Run.<sup>1</sup> In 1877, the Gorsuch Mill House was occupied by J. S. Gorsuch and was adjacent to the Bayview Grist and Sawmill.<sup>2</sup> Regardless of its strategic location at an intersection in a milling district, the Black Rock community remained rural through the late 1800s. By 1881, the village had a population of 150 and included two Baptist churches, a United Brethren church, and one public school.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>3</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881 (Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA) p. 869.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 557

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6.82 Acres  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Hampstead

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Gorsuch Mill House is located at 16710 Gorsuch Mill Road in the Black Rock vicinity of the Fifth District of Baltimore County. It has been associated with Tax Map 20, Parcel 57 since its construction circa 1872.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	R. Weidlich, A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 15, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

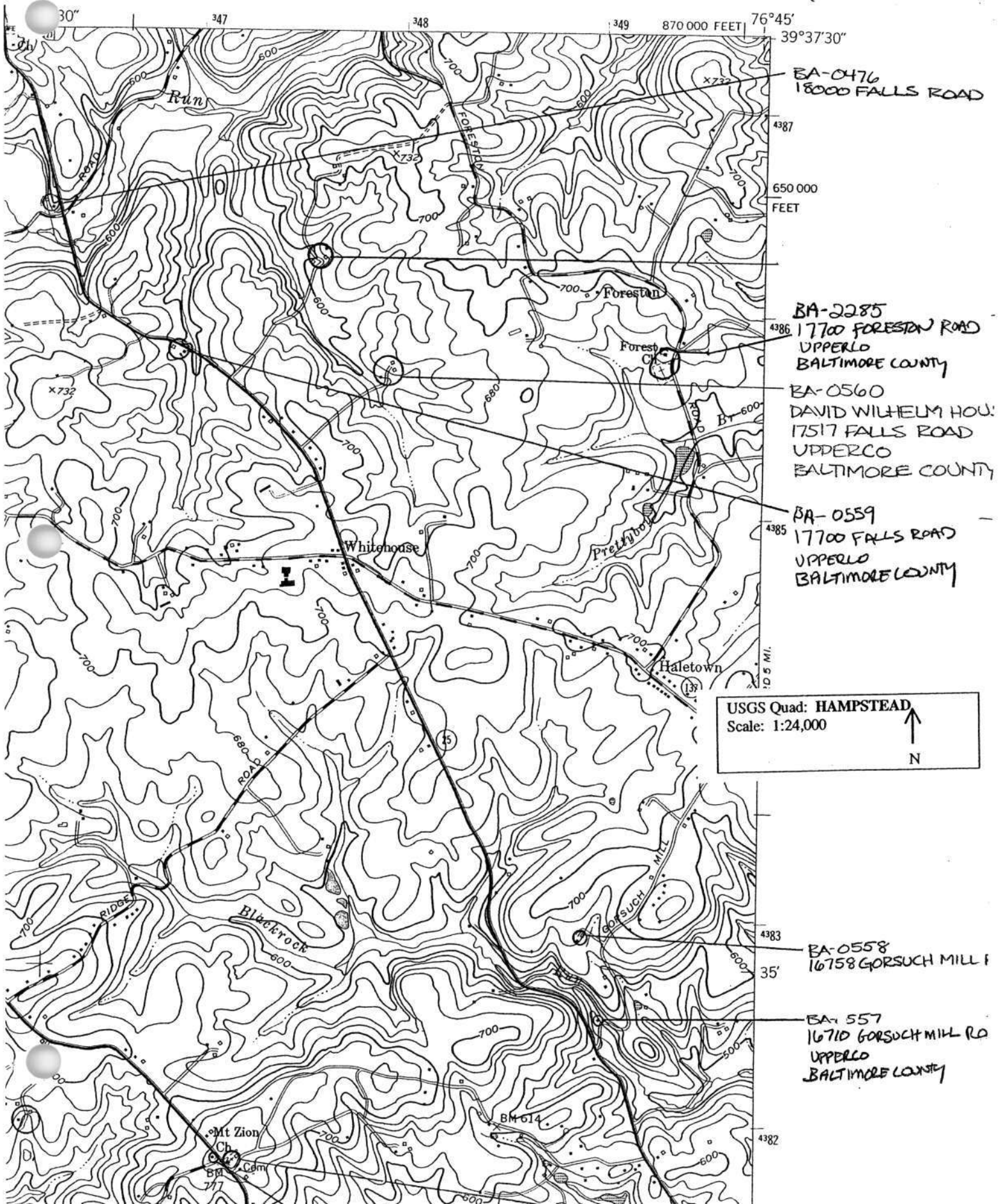
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# HAMPSTEAD QUADRANGLE MARYLAND 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5663 II NW  
(NEW FREEDOM)



BA-0476  
18000 FALLS ROAD

BA-2285  
17700 FORESTAN ROAD  
UPPERLO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0560  
DAVID WILHELM HOU:  
17517 FALLS ROAD  
UPPERLO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0559  
17700 FALLS ROAD  
UPPERLO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: HAMPSTEAD  
Scale: 1:24,000



BA-0558  
16758 GORSUCH MILL R

BA-557  
16710 GORSUCH MILL RD  
UPPERLO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-557

16710 GORSUCH MILL ROAD

UPPER MD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

S CORNER

1 of 5





BA-0557

16710 GORSULT MILL ROAD

UPPERLO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

S CORNER

2 of 5



BA-557

16710 GORSUCH MILL ROAD

UPPERLO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

N CORNER

3 of 5



BA-557

16710 GORSULT MILL ROAD

UPPERLO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

WELL

4 of 5





BA-557

16710 GORSULT MILL ROAD

UPPER

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHO

BARN RUINS

3 of 5

BA - 557

**GORSUCH MILL HOUSE - 1857-1875 -** (North side of) 16710 Gorsuch Mill Road, just east of Falls Road. Large stone and frame house, two stories in west or frame section and three stories in stone (east) section; vernacular style; gable roofing. Set in a bend of the road in a heavily shaded location; this seems to be the location of a one-story frame house of John McComisky's mentioned in the 1798 tax list and the 1800 election district bounds, but no house appears at stream crossing on 1850 or 1857 maps. This was the dwelling for the Bayview or Gorsuch Mill, a frame structure built after the time of Sidney's 1850 map; the mill first appeared in the 1877 atlas; the works were listed in the 1918 tax ledger but was marked as "abated" in an entry of 1920. One millstone survives on dwelling grounds. Owner: Wilhelmina Wielich.